



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE  
STATE HOUSE • ROOM 373  
BOSTON, MA 02133

MITT ROMNEY  
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

THOMAS H. TRIMARCO  
SECRETARY

TEL: (617) 727-2040  
FAX: (617) 727-2779

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**CONTACT:**  
Julie Teer  
Felix Browne  
(617) 725-4025

**ROMNEY ADMINISTRATION APPOINTS CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER**

Administration and Finance Secretary Thomas Trimarco today named Louis Gutierrez as chief information officer of the Information Technology Division (ITD), the department that oversees information technology operations and planning for executive branch agencies. The appointment is effective on February 6, 2006.

Gutierrez will be responsible for overseeing the final stages of implementation of the state's new Open Document format proposal, to go into effect in January 2007.

"Information technology is an important tool that helps to deliver a wide range of government services both quickly and cost effectively," said Trimarco. "Louis Gutierrez has a distinguished record in both the private and public sectors and brings a keen understanding of information technology's mission and its potential."

Bethann Pepoli, who has served as the department's acting chief information officer, will become deputy chief information officer. Gutierrez will leave his current position as chief technology strategist at the Commonwealth Medicine Division of UMass Medical School in order to accept the appointment. While at UMass Medical, Gutierrez directed a team that provided technology support during Operation Helping Hand, the state assistance effort for Hurricane Katrina evacuees who came to Massachusetts.

Prior to working at UMass Medical Gutierrez was chief information officer for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (HHS), the largest state secretariat with 23,000 staff and more than \$12 billion in annual spending. While at HHS Gutierrez led the development and implementation of the state's Virtual Gateway, an online portal that integrated the web presence of 16 agencies into a user-friendly format that improved service delivery and reduced costs.

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“The Virtual Gateway is an example of how state government computing can be transformed through the application of open standards that interoperate with many kinds of technology and vendors,” said Gutierrez. “As technology continues to evolve there remain substantial opportunities to transform services and a need to plan for the long-term future of technology-infused operations.”

A former principal at the Exeter Group, an IT strategy and integration services firm, Gutierrez has held a number of top IT positions, including chief information officer at Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and deputy director for technology planning and standards for the Federal Reserve system. He is a former Commonwealth of Massachusetts chief information officer.

A graduate of Harvard College and MIT's Sloan School of Management, Gutierrez lives in Arlington with his wife and their two daughters.

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